Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A data updating method for updating data stored in a first memory of an image forming apparatus, comprising:

receiving electronic mail that calls for updating of the data stored in the first memory from an external device;

determining whether or not the image forming apparatus is in a standby state after receiving the electronic mail;

downloading updating data from a device on a network based on contents of the electronic mail when it is determined that the image forming apparatus is in a standby state ~~receives the electronic mail that calls for updating of the data stored in the first memory from an external device~~;

saving the data, which has been stored in the first memory, in a second memory and executing updating processing for the data stored in the first memory, based on the downloaded updating data; and

rewriting the data saved in the second memory, which is the unupdated data stored in the first memory, into the first memory when an error occurs in data updating processing.

2. (Original) The data updating method for the image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the electronic mail sent from the external device includes information indicating data to be updated, and information indicating which device on the network holds the updating data.

3. (Original) The data updating method for the image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said executing updating processing includes:

writing the updating data once again if the writing of the updating data in the memory fails and a number of times of failure is within a predetermined number; and

determining that an error occurs in data updating processing if the number of times of failure reaches said predetermined number.

4. (Original) The data updating method for the image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

causing the image forming apparatus to notify the external device of a result of the data updating processing.

5. (Original) The data updating method for the image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether or not data updating is necessary based on the contents of the electronic mail when the image forming apparatus has received the electronic mail from the external device, and

wherein the updating data is downloaded from the device on the network based on the contents of the electronic mail when the data updating is determined to be necessary.

6. (Previously Presented) The data updating method for the image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

the electronic mail sent from the external device includes version information on data to be updated; and

said determining whether or not the data updating is necessary includes comparing the version information included in the electronic mail with version information on the data stored in the first memory, and determining whether or not updating is required with respect to the data stored in the first memory.

7. (Original) The data updating method for the image forming apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

causing the image forming apparatus to notify the external device that data updating based on the electronic mail is unnecessary, when the data updating is determined to be unnecessary.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a first memory in which data is stored beforehand;

a second memory which temporarily stores data;

a receiving section which receives electronic mail that calls for updating of the data stored in the first memory from an external device;

a state determining section which determines whether or not the image forming apparatus is in a standby state after receiving the electronic mail;

a network interface which receives ~~from an external device electronic mail calling for updating of the data stored in the first memory and through which~~ updating data [[is]] to be downloaded from a device on a network based on contents of the electronic mail ~~in response to the reception of the electronic mail~~;

a data updating section which executes updating processing for the data stored in the first memory based on the updating data downloaded by the network interface when it is determined that the image forming apparatus is in a standby state by the state determining section; and

a processing section which rewrites the data saved in the second memory, which is the unupdated data stored in the first memory, into the first memory when an error occurs in data updating processing executed by the data updating section.

9. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the electronic mail sent from the external device includes information indicating data to be updated, and information indicating which device on the network holds the updating data.

10. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said data updating section writes the updating data once again if the writing of the updating data in the first memory fails and a number of times of failure is within a predetermined number, and determines that an error has occurred in the data updating processing if the number of times of failure reaches said predetermined number.

11. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 8 further comprising a notification section which causes the network interface to notify the external device of a result of the data updating processing.

12. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 8 further comprising a determination section which determines whether or not data updating is

necessary based on the contents of the electronic mail when the image forming apparatus has received the electronic mail from the external device, wherein

said network interface enables the updating data to be downloaded from the device on the network based on the contents of the electronic mail when the data updating is determined to be necessary by the determination section.

13. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the electronic mail sent from the external device includes version information on data to be updated, and said determination section determines whether or not data updating for the data stored in the first memory is necessary by comparing the version information included in the electronic mail with version information on the data stored in the first memory.

14. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 12 further comprising a notification section which causes the network interface to notify the external device that data updating based on the electronic mail is unnecessary, when the data updating is determined to be unnecessary.

15. (Currently Amended) An image forming system comprising: an image forming apparatus which stores data in a first memory thereof beforehand; and an external device capable of exchanging electronic mail with the image forming apparatus,

said external device including a modem which sends electronic mail to the image forming apparatus to call for updating of the data stored in the first memory of the image forming apparatus, and

said image forming apparatus includes:

a second memory which temporarily stores data <u>which has been stored in the first memory;</u>

<u>a receiving section which receives electronic mail that calls for updating of the data stored in the first memory from the external device;</u>

<u>a state determining section which determines whether or not the image forming apparatus is in a standby state after receiving the electronic mail;</u>

a network interface ~~through~~ which receives updating data [[is]] to be downloaded from a device on a network based on contents of the electronic mail ~~in response to the reception of that electronic mail~~;

a data updating section which executes updating processing for the data stored in the first memory based on the updating data downloaded by the network interface when it is determined that the image forming apparatus is in a standby state by the state determining section; and

a processing section which rewrites the data saved in the second memory, which is the unupdated data stored in the first memory, into the first memory when an error occurs in data updating processing executed by the data updating section.

16. (Original) The image forming system according to claim 15, wherein the electronic mail sent from the external device includes information indicating data to be updated, and information indicating which device on the network holds the updating data.

17. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 15, wherein said data updating section writes the updating data once again if the writing of the updating data in the first memory fails and a number of times of failure is within a predetermined number, and determines that an error has occurred in the data updating processing if the number of times of failure reaches said predetermined number.

18. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 15 further comprising a notification section which causes the network interface to notify the external device of a result of the data updating processing.

19. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 15 further comprising a determination section which determines whether or not data updating is necessary based on the contents of the electronic mail when the image forming apparatus has received the electronic mail from the external device, wherein

said network interface enables the updating data to be downloaded from the device on the network based on the contents of the electronic mail when the data updating is determined to be necessary by the determination section.

20. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 19 further comprising a notification section which causes the electronic mail sent from the external device includes version information on data to be updated, and said determination determines whether or not data updating for the data stored in the first memory is necessary by comparing the version information included in the electronic mail with version information on the data stored in the first memory.

21. (Previously Presented) The image forming system according to claim 19 further comprising a notification section which causes the network interface to notify the external device that data updating based on the electronic mail is unnecessary, when the data updating is determined to be unnecessary.

22. (New) The data updating method for the image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising prohibiting operations other than the update processing from being executed in the image forming apparatus when initiating the update processing based on the electronic mail.

23. (New) The data updating method for the image forming apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising displaying that the image forming apparatus is in a non-active state when execution of the operations other than the update processing is being prohibited.

24. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a prohibition section which prohibits operations other than the update processing from being executed in the image forming apparatus when initiating the update processing based on the electronic mail.

25 (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising a display section which displays that the image forming apparatus is in a non-active state while execution of the operations other than the update processing is being prohibited by the prohibition section.

26. (New) The image forming system according to claim 15, wherein the image forming apparatus further includes a prohibition section which prohibits operations other than

the update processing from being executed in the image forming apparatus when initiating the update processing based on the electronic mail.

27. (New) The image forming system according to claim 26, wherein the image forming apparatus further includes a display section which displays that the image forming apparatus is in a non-active state while execution of the operations other than the update processing is being prohibited by the prohibition section.